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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, National Estimates

SUBJECT : OCI Comment on Stassen Disarmament Proposals

REFERENCE : DD/I Memo dated 8 November 1955, subject: Agency
Comment on Stassen Disarmament Proposals

1. In President Eisenhower's statement on the subject of disarmament at Geneva on 21 July 1955 he expressed his view that "the priority attention of our combined study of disarmament should be upon the subject of inspection and reporting". In proposing an inspection system, the President further stated that by this means he intended "to convince the world that we are providing as between ourselves against the possibility of great surprise attack, thus lessening danger and relaxing tension".

2. The primary concern of this office lies in the expressed intent to provide against the possibility of surprise attack. The program should:

a. Provide surveillance of certain specific intelligence targets.

b. Insure detection at those intelligence targets of specific and essential preparatory activities which would have to be taken prior to the launching of an attack, and;

c. Provide for timely transmission of this information so as to permit the U.S. to take necessary preventive measures.

Governor Stassen's proposal deals with the methodology of an inspection program and not with the details of the inspecting process. A valid assessment of the adequacy of any inspection program for detecting preparations for surprise attack must be based on specific listings of the targets to be inspected, nature and frequency of inspection, manners and facilities for forwarding the findings, and other similar details. It is not possible at this time, therefore, to make an assessment of the inspection program from the point of view of intelligence.

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3. It is our understanding that the more detailed aspects of the operation of this proposed inspecting mechanism are now being worked out by members of Governor Stassen's Task Forces. A meaningful assessment of the proposal and the advantages or disadvantages which would accrue to U.S. intelligence should await receipt of that more detailed report.

/s/
HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director
Current Intelligence

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OCI [] (15 November 1955)

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